

CHARLIE BAKER
Governor



KARYN POLITO
Lt. Governor

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**Baker-Polito Administration Creates New State Public Service Award To Honor
Former Governor Paul Cellucci**

BOSTON – The Baker-Polito Administration today announced the opening of the Commonwealth's 33rd annual Performance Recognition Program application period, which will include a new award created for the 2017 program titled the "*Governor Paul Cellucci Award for Leadership and Mentoring in State Government*." The Cellucci Award will be open to any Executive Branch or Higher Education employee who has been in state service for 2 years and are leaders in the area of mentoring in the workplace and the fostering of a supportive and learning environment amongst colleagues.

"Paul took enormous pride in the team he built to work by his side in public service with integrity and determination," **said Jan Cellucci, wife of the former Governor**. "It also gave Paul enormous joy, even as he faced the realities of ALS, that many members of his Administration were inspired to continue to serve the Commonwealth. Our family remains indebted to their service and is so grateful that others will be encouraged to follow Paul's example through this award."

"Working with and for Governor Paul Cellucci for eight years allowed me to learn and benefit tremendously from his insights and collaborative spirits," **said Governor Charlie Baker**. "Like so many others, I was able to advance because of his interest in my growth and development and willingness to teach others what he already knew."

"Governor Paul Cellucci was my friend and mentor and I'm proud and honored to have his portrait hang in my office as a reminder of the strength and power of bipartisan leadership and

state partnership with local government,” **said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito.** “A true public servant, I am inspired by his example and strive to incorporate the values of respect and civility in my work today and am pleased to see his legacy recognized through the works of others employed by our Commonwealth.”

“I had the tremendous honor of working for Governor Cellucci, who was one of the nicest and most genuine persons I have ever met,” **said Administration and Finance Secretary Kristen Lepore,** who served as Deputy Chief of Staff under Governor Cellucci. “This award will preserve his legacy and set the bar for future state employees who choose to follow in his footsteps and serve the Commonwealth.”

Argeo Paul Cellucci of Hudson served as Governor of the Commonwealth from 1997 – 2001, when he was appointed Ambassador to Canada by President George W. Bush. Cellucci had previously served the Commonwealth as Lieutenant Governor (1991 – 1997), a State Senator (1985-1991), and a State Representative (1977-1985). Governor Cellucci spent his career engaging others to embrace public service and instilling a philosophy of “paying it forward.” He was known for his commitment to keeping taxes low, maintaining fiscal discipline, supporting higher education standards, and combatting domestic and sexual violence.

The Commonwealth will honor all Performance Recognition Program award winners at a State House ceremony in the Fall, date to be determined. Other awards to be given out will include Manuel Carballo Governor’s Award for Excellence in Public Service, the Eugene H. Rooney, Jr. Public Service Award, and the Commonwealth Equity in Governance Award.

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